

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1319

By Travis

A RESOLUTION to honor the Dunlap Police Department on being selected as a finalist for the 2018 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing those outstanding employers who, by supporting their employees' service in the National Guard and Reserve, help strengthen our national security; and

WHEREAS, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) fosters a culture in which employers support and value the employment and military service of members of the National Guard and Reserve in the United States, enabling these citizen warriors to defend and protect us at home and abroad with the continued security of meaningful civilian employment for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Dunlap Police Department has been recognized as one of thirty finalists, from among more than 2,300 nominations, for the ESGR's 2018 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of employees serving in the Guard and Reserve; to date, only 250 employers have received this prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, the only finalist from Tennessee, the Dunlap Police Department was nominated by Officer Robert W. Raber, who is a Specialist in the 252<sup>nd</sup> Military Police Company, Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Raber has served numerous training and active duty deployments, including a year in the Middle East and, more recently, during hurricane relief in the U.S. Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Raber lauded the chief and his fellow officers of the Dunlap Police Department for their outstanding support during his earlier deployments, but he felt, with good reason, that their most recent support was exceptional, even lifesaving; and

WHEREAS, while Specialist Raber was serving with the Guard in the Virgin Islands, his family's home was destroyed by fire; the men and women of the Dunlap Police Department, Chief Clint Huth, and others immediately stepped in to provide assistance to his wife and children, helping them locate new temporary housing and spearheading fundraising drives for the family; and

WHEREAS, in providing this humanitarian assistance, Dunlap's police officers were not only coming to the aid of a brother in blue and his family, they were also supporting and furthering the mission of the National Guard and Reserve by helping Specialist Raber's family in their time of need while he was helping other Americans survive in the aftermath of a hurricane; and

WHEREAS, no matter the outcome of the award process, the chief and officers of the Dunlap Police Department have distinguished themselves as public servants of the greatest dedication, and they should be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Chief Clint Huth and the men and women of the Dunlap Police Department on being selected as a finalist for the 2018 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award and salute their exceptional support of Officer/Specialist Robert W. Raber and his family in recovering from the loss of their home.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.